



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Legacies
Oral History Program



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Title: *Interview with Keating Karig Carrier*

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Interviewer: *Charles P. Ziegler, Janet Ziegler*

Transcriber: *Janet Ziegler*

Abstract: Keating Karig Carrier was born in 1926. She has lived in Alexandria since 1934, first on Russell Road and then, since 1938, on Seminary Road. She graduated from St. Agnes Episcopal School in Alexandria. Ms. Karig's father was the distinguished journalist and author, Walter Karig. Ms. Carrier recounts life growing up on Seminary Hill, attending St. Agnes School, recreational activities, filling the role of Acting Postmistress at the Seminary Hill Post Office, local transportation and commerce, buildings on Seminary Hill, and Seminary Hill animals -- both domestic and wild.

Table of Contents/Index**Tape:** *Tape 1***Side:** *Side 1*

Minute	Counter	Page	Topic
	1	3	Family and Early Childhood
3	34	3	Early Life in Alexandria
6	73	4	Move to Seminary Hill
11	131	6	St. Agnes School, and the Founding of St. Stephen's School
19	236	8	Life on Seminary Hill
25	309	10	Structures on Seminary Hill
30	414	12	Housing Developments on Seminary Hill
31	424	12	Muckross
35	491	13	Seminary Hill Post Office
39	554	15	Animals

Tape: *Tape 1***Side:** *Side 2*

Minute	Counter	Page	Topic
	1	17	World War II Anti-Aircraft Battery
2	25	18	Local Stores
6	51	18	Transportation
7	68	19	St. Agnes School
11	128	20	Seminary Hill Neighborhood
17	190	22	Mural in the House
19	220	23	Sister's Adventure
20	240	23	Marriage
25	304	24	Going to Church

Family and Early Childhood	
Charles Ziegler:	Today is August 8, 2005. My name is Charles Ziegler and my wife, Janet, and I are at our home with Ms. Keating Karig Carrier who lives around the corner at ---- Seminary Road in Alexandria and we are here to conduct an interview with Ms. Carrier for the Seminary Hill Oral History program. So we're very happy you're here with us today Keating for this and if we can start – how long has your family lived in Alexandria?
Keating Carrier:	Since 1934. We came down from New Jersey in 1934 in time for the two daughters to start school at St. Agnes.
CPZ:	Where were your parents born?
Keating Carrier:	My mother was born in Terre Haute, Indiana and my father was born, I'm not sure where. It depends on to whom you speak. Sometimes it's New York, sometimes it's Poland.
CPZ:	What type of work did your parents do?
Keating Carrier:	They both graduated from Parsons School of Design and my mother's first job was ...
CPZ:	Where is Parsons, by the way?
Keating Carrier:	New York City. My mother was the Head Art Teacher/Instructor for Norfolk and just over the state line in North Carolina. She told the art teachers what to do. She got their supplies for them. My father at that time had just finished the Army and was doing cartoons for the <i>Norfolk Pilot</i> , I believe. A cartoon strip called <i>Peter and Pat</i> , and the children were reduced to the size where they could get into birds' nests and they went into ant holes, as a nature strip for children.
CPZ:	Oh, a nature comic strip – nature instruction for children? Okay. And Keating, where were you born, and when?
Keating Carrier:	I was almost born on the sidewalk during the parade for Armistice Day. But they did get me to the hospital. I was born in Orange New Jersey. I was born the 11 th of November 1926.
Early Life in Alexandria	
CPZ:	What is your earliest memory of living in Alexandria?
Keating Carrier:	Arriving! My sister and I used to spend summers at the estate of my great aunt in Croton-on-Hudson, New York and she had a chauffeur and a big car and they drove us down and I remember arriving in Virginia and I was, what - Nine? Eight?
CPZ:	Who lived in your household? I imagine it evolved over time, but beginning when you first moved to Alexandria.
Keating Carrier:	Just the four of us – my mother, my father, my sister and Keating.

CPZ:	And who were your friends? Well, let's do this first – you lived first in Russell Road between 1934 and 1938 – I know you've told me that. Who were your friends there, briefly?
Keating Carrier:	There were children in the neighborhood up and down the street. One was a little girl named Hope who had had polio and had been taught to braid to strengthen her polio arm, and that's how I learned to braid. She taught me.
CPZ:	Did your Russell Road neighborhood have a name? Like we're here at Seminary Hill. Do you recall if it did?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, I'm sure it did but it doesn't come to mind.
CPZ:	What was your house on Russell Road like?
Keating Carrier:	It was a three story with basement stone house on a hill. I think it had five bedrooms and two and a half baths, an enormous living room, big dining room, smallish kitchen and a study where my father wrote some of his books.
Janet Ziegler:	Is the house still standing?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, yes. It was a school for many years. It's got a lovely big barn behind it. The barn had housing for two cars or a horse and a pony and a hayloft. Definitely a horse-oriented place.
JZ:	But the surrounding area has probably changed since you moved?
Keating Carrier:	Well, the roads have been covered up too. Virginia Avenue was a dirt road when we lived there. So it was nice for the horses. You could gallop on the road and nobody complained.
CPZ:	Can you remember the address of the house?
Keating Carrier:	I think it was 2 Virginia Avenue.
CPZ:	2 Virginia Avenue.
Keating Carrier:	And the house had two entries. One on Woodland Terrace and one on Virginia Avenue.
CPZ:	And you called this nevertheless the Russell Road house?
Keating Carrier:	Uh-huh. It was always the Russell Road – the Rust House. It was one of the Rust brothers that my father rented the house from.
Move to Seminary Hill	
CPZ:	Okay. Could you describe the circumstances of your moving to Seminary Road, and the process of designing and building the house?
Keating Carrier:	We lived in the house on Russell Road for four years and they raised the rent to such and exorbitant extent, and it was the beginning of the war in Europe, and...
CPZ:	This would be around 1938 or so?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. And people were coming into Washington and they didn't have enough housing and so this renter decided he could get sky-

	high or anything he wanted. It was a little ridiculous. And so I had a friend from St. Agnes and I had a pony and we shared my pony and I used to take my pony and spend weekends with her and that's how I got to learn about Seminary Hill. She lived down on Quaker Lane. And at that time it wasn't so developed. In fact it was backed up by dairies.
CPZ:	There were dairies there?
Keating Carrier:	Alexandria had a big dairy. And the farmers that supplied the milk were where the Hechinger Shopping Center is – there on Duke Street – that was a big dairy. And where T.C. Williams [High School] is was another big dairy. Episcopal High School had a big dairy.
CPZ:	On the school grounds?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. In fact the barns were where the gymnasium is.
CPZ:	Could you say something about the process of designing and building the house, or were you too young for that sort of thing?
Keating Carrier:	No – my mother and father were both artists and they designed the house and after they got it down to where they liked the idea they had an architect come in and do the finishing up – with proper doors going into closets and plumbing lines and things, and it was a very happy, agreeable period.
CPZ:	How many rooms did it have? Or does it have? You still live there.
Keating Carrier:	Yes. There are four bedrooms upstairs and two baths. On the first floor is the living room, dining room, study, and kitchen. In the basement there's a two car garage and a room for a servant with a bath.
CPZ:	Now, you did have a servant for a while. I think I read a reference to that?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, we've had all sorts of servants. Before the War we had a very nice Japanese, but he decided... His father died in California. He was taking his father back to Japan to bury him. But unfortunately Pearl Harbor occurred and he was put into the prisoner of war camp. And then he knew a woman who had hired another Japanese and we got in touch with her to see if she could find us someone. She found a nice man, an older man. His name was Kukuchi and he lived in the basement and helped with the horses and chauffeured my father and served at dinner. He was a man who did all sorts of things – he was incredible. I don't think he slept at night. [Laughs] He was out raking leaves or cutting grass or planting flowers.
JZ	Did he do the cooking also, or did your mother do the cooking?
Keating Carrier:	No, we had a cook.

JZ	You had a cook as well?
Keating Carrier:	That's why we had a pantry. We had a pantry so you had a sliding door so none of the odor from the kitchen would go into the dining room. So the cook would put the food in the pantry and close the door and Kukuchi would get it and serve it. It was very fine.
JZ	Did the cook also live in?
Keating Carrier:	No. She came in for breakfast, sort of took a nap in the afternoon, cooked dinner and then left. Oh, she did the dishes before she left.
JZ	Someone from the local area?
Keating Carrier:	Yes, she lived in Alexandria and came up by bus. To both houses.
CPZ:	Was she a black lady?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. And she was an unusual gal at the time because she was a high school graduate. And as soon as the War started and they opened the jobs more for the blacks than there had ever had been before she got a very good job with the government. I think my father actually found it for her.
St. Agnes School and the Founding of St. Stephen's School	
CPZ:	With regard to your house, do you happen to know why this particular location was chosen?
Keating Carrier:	Because the kids up here had horses. We knew the kids who had horses. We convinced them that we needed to have our riding friends. And we all went to St. Agnes.
CPZ:	Your friends you mean – you and your friends.
Keating Carrier:	And the horses. We used to ride the horses to school sometimes and tie them up on the hockey field.
JZ	St. Agnes – the building that is now the lower school campus?
Keating Carrier:	In fact it was only the old original building.
CPZ:	The Lloyd House.
Keating Carrier:	The Lloyd House. And then I think there's a little house and I think maybe the headmistress lives there now, or she did at one time.
CPZ:	A kind of a white frame house?
Keating Carrier:	It was a Hodgson house and it's a pre-built building. Because during the War the school just grew too fast. And that's why they built St. Stephen's – because St. Agnes used to be a prep school for Episcopal High School for the local boys. But then there were too many local boys and not all of them were going to St. Agnes.
CPZ:	Not to digress too much, but this is an interesting thread I want to take up. You mentioned earlier before we started recording that your father was on the... He helped to found St. Stephen's, which is, of course, right down the street here and so is very much

	relevant to this history of the Seminary Hill area. Could you say a little about his involvement there and where the school was located when it was first founded.
Keating Carrier:	Well, my father was on the Board of St. Agnes with Helen Macan. In fact Helen Macan was a good buddy of my family. She was my godmother. She just dropped in and out of the house. In fact she's the one who gave us the pig for Christmas -- Smigly-Rydz Chiang Kai-shek, after the Polish leader and the Nationalist leader in China.
CPZ:	The story of this can be found in <i>The Pig in the Parlor</i> by the Karig family. The book was published by Rinehart & Company in 1949.
Keating Carrier:	Kind of nice of you to do an advertisement.
CPZ:	Well, people need to know. So Ms. Macan and <i>The Pig in the Parlor</i> ?
Keating Carrier:	Well, my father was always on the Board at St. Agnes. He was also on the Vestry at the Seminary chapel. The only church that time was in the grounds. He was the warden, fire-warden, for airplane watching during World War II. He had a finger in everything. But the War came -- there weren't enough houses, there weren't enough rooms in the schools. The Alexandria Public Schools were quite dreadful. And my father, Helen Macan and ...
CPZ:	Sinclair?
Keating Carrier:	No, no. The minister from Emmanuel on Russell Road. The three of them used to get together and plan and talk for things for St. Agnes. And they're the ones who decided on the Hodgson house. To fill out more rooms.
CPZ:	The Hodgson house was located then on the grounds of St. Agnes?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. Where the Sinclair building is now.
CPZ:	So we were talking about St. Stephen's, when it was founded, where it was located.
Keating Carrier:	Now, if you know where the Russell Road house is -- and I know you don't [laughs] - it's on Russell Road at the intersection of Woodland Terrace and Virginia Avenue dead ends into the property. St. Stephen's was a rented house on Russell Road across the street from the Russell Road house that we lived in. I don't have an address. The house is still there. [Inaudible] In fact, St. Agnes used to rent houses for the lower grades. I had, I think, second and third grade in a sandbox in the original old school building and then fourth, fifth and sixth were renter houses right around the area.
JZ:	Weren't there boarders at St. Agnes in the early days?
Keating Carrier:	Yes.
JZ:	Were they in those houses?

Keating Carrier:	No, they were in the school wing. They were really only three rooms and they had bunk beds. I was a boarder for a while because I just said boys were more interesting than books. So I was a five day boarder. And they squished four to six gals in a room. Under supervision beyond belief.
JZ:	It was very strict?
Keating Carrier:	Oh yes. We were allowed so many things on our dresser top. The maid had to dust them. She couldn't spend her whole day dusting knick-knacks. [Laughs] Oh yes, when lights were out they were out. We were told how many baths we were supposed to have. Like daily. Showers – whatever.
JZ:	Could I ask – maybe it's a digression too – but you mentioned the Alexandria schools were not very good.
Keating Carrier:	The public schools unfortunately were just so embarrassing. I think there were high school teachers who hadn't really graduated high school. I mean, there just weren't enough teachers, they didn't pay enough,
CPZ:	And of course schools were segregated.
Keating Carrier:	Oh, absolutely.
JZ:	So the teaching was not what your parents wanted for you? The level of education.
Keating Carrier:	The public school education in Alexandria is excellent now. My kids went through the public schools here. They seem to have done fairly well. They graduated from college without any trouble. Had to be fairly strict. [Inaudible]
Life on Seminary Hill	
CPZ:	Going back to your house and the property there. Was the property then the same size as it is now?
Keating Carrier:	Uh-huh.
CPZ:	And that's how many acres?
Keating Carrier:	The Russell Road house?
CPZ:	No, this is the one on Seminary Road.
Keating Carrier:	Okay. It's three and a fifth acres.
CPZ:	And just for the record, it extends back from the house. The frontage on Seminary Road is not commensurate... It's a long property going well back into a wooded area.
Keating Carrier:	Well – and that is... My father originally bought two acres but he didn't want to cut down any trees for the house, so in order to build the house they had to cut down one tree, and so that made the house six feet from the edge of the property, so he had to buy another acre. So, originally it was two and a fifth and now it's three and a fifth, saving trees. We've always been a family of tree

	huggers.
CPZ:	Well, we thank you for that. We still enjoy the view from our dining room window. You can see it right now.
Keating Carrier:	I wish they'd stop dying. I've had a terrible time with dying oak trees.
CPZ:	From whom did he purchase the house – the property I should say?
Keating Carrier:	Well there was an old frame house where the synagogue is. And it was an older man and wife – I don't believe they had any children - named Strayer. And our property was part of their property.
CPZ:	Strayer. S-T-R-A-Y-E-R?
Keating Carrier:	Uh-huh. And they sold the first two acres to my father and then they really jacked the price up to get the other part... The old rock and a hard place. And he also sold property on the other side of his house where Howard [Worth] Smith built his house, where the Redmonds live now. That's an acre. It's a long skinny acre. Oh no - it was originally bought by a wonderful Russian – Boris – Boris – I'm sorry, I can't remember ...
CPZ:	Boris was the first name?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. Oh - Shushkin or Shushin. And his wife was a prima ballerina with the Bolshoi.
CPZ:	Oh, really?
Keating Carrier:	And she decided ...
CPZ:	Before the Revolution, presumably?
Keating Carrier:	I presume. But then she decided she didn't like where she was living, and she decided to get a divorce. She became a wheeler dealer in Santa Fe, New Mexico. For art displays. Gave the Indians a fair value for their silver jewelry. An interesting woman.
CPZ:	So they lived... That was where that they were living?
Keating Carrier:	They had bought the property where the Redmonds now live. It's the house on the east side of the synagogue.
CPZ:	Okay. That's farther... Okay.
Keating Carrier:	They bought it; they didn't live there. They owned the land for a long time without developing it and then they sold it to Howard [Worth] Smith, Jr. He's the one that put the house up. As a young man he collected interior antiques so the house has some beautiful staircases and doorways, and he collected in Charlottesville while he was in college. Because he wanted a nice old house.
CPZ:	He could have found some down there too. I read in that book <i>The Pig in the Parlor</i> – your father wrote that your house has a name, which I didn't know.
Keating Carrier:	Derwydden. It's the Oak Grove where the Druids live.

CPZ:	And how did it get that name? There are a lot of oak trees, so presumably that had something to do with it.
Keating Carrier:	Oh – my father was really interested in strange things like voodoo and hoodoo and Druids – interested in things such as various religions and early history.
CPZ:	Okay. So the Druids come from his interest? And the oaks would come of course from the trees that are growing there?
Keating Carrier:	Yes.
Structures on Seminary Hill	
CPZ:	Okay, well, we've already touched on this other point. What other structures existed in the Seminary Hill neighborhood when you moved in?
Keating Carrier:	Coming up going west on Seminary Road, leaving Quaker Lane, let's see [phone rings].
CPZ:	There was a slight interruption there. We were talking about the... what structures existed in the Seminary Hill neighborhood when Ms. Carrier moved in, in 1938. And perhaps something about the evolution of these... how things have grown and changed since then. It's been quite a change, I imagine.
Keating Carrier:	Well, first of all, Seminary Road was a dirt road. They sprinkled a little liquid tar on it in the summer time to keep the dust down. Coming up from Quaker Lane, on the left was a field that was either being grazed by Rock – he was the tractor for the Seminary.
CPZ:	That's a horse?
Keating Carrier:	That's a horse. All the work horses that Bill Cleveland had were named Rock. In fact the structure he built for the horse is still on the grounds. It's behind the house across the street from us. It's a cinder block building. And it has room for hay, grain, harness ...
CPZ:	This is in the Seminary grounds?
Keating Carrier:	It was straight off the Seminary Road.
CPZ:	The field you were talking about on the left – is that where the church of Immanuel-on-the-Hill is now? Or is it before that?
Keating Carrier:	No – actually Seminary Road used to not go straight into Janneys Lane. It used to cut off to the right, and the driveway for the pastor's house used to be Seminary Road going into Quaker Lane, but they decided it was too bad or difficult or dangerous to link the jog in the road so got the Seminary... We're going to take your land and rearrange it.
CPZ:	So where Seminary Road runs now from Quaker Lane, that used to be Seminary property?
Keating Carrier:	Yes.
CPZ:	And...

Keating Carrier:	And on either side were either hay fields or a pasture depending on what they were doing that year. Because all the ground maintenance was done by one man and one horse. It's Bill Cleveland, whose house was across the street from us. And his horse... and all of them were named Rock even though he had only one horse at a time. His wife's name was Mollie.
CPZ:	Now was he black?
Keating Carrier:	No, they were both white.
CPZ:	Because, of course, there's a Bill Cleveland who was Vice-Mayor, so there's no relation there.
Keating Carrier:	No, no relation.
CPZ:	And what other structures existed, how did they evolve, as you recall?
Keating Carrier:	Well, let's see. The first building on the left coming up was the house that one of the professors lives in. I think it's a pre-Civil War house – it's got the funny rounded corner. But there are none of the small houses where you let off of 3737. None of those existed. The church didn't exist. Let's see. Then there's another house where the Kevins lived.
CPZ:	Sorry, who was that, the name?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, the first house was where Dr. Zabriskie lived. He eventually became Dean of the Seminary. He had four kids – three boys and a girl. Mary Forrest, George, [Pippy] and Sandy.
CPZ:	How do you spell the last name there?
Keating Carrier:	Zabriskie. Z-A-B-R-I-S-K-I-E.
JZ	It's a name that's known in the Seminary.
Keating Carrier:	Oh, a delightful family. In fact, I think Mrs. Zabriskie was English. There's not a road cutting into Seminary Road. What's that road – Parkway?
CPZ:	Fort Williams Parkway?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. There was no Fort Williams Parkway. But it was the beginning of a driveway and the driveway went to a pre-Civil War house that's still there. As you drive down Fort Williams Parkway, I think it's the second house on the right. It's got a nice little turn-around driveway and they've added on to the house. That was the only house at the time and that's where the DeCazenoves lived.
CPZ:	D-E?
Keating Carrier:	Capital C-A-Z-E-N-O-V-E? DeCazenove.
CPZ:	That could be in the Land Records if we really wanted to find out.
Keating Carrier:	Well, there were two brothers who owned that – one that was married. And he, incidentally, was also married to a Russian

	ballerina. And then there's a brother, Jim, that did not get married. He lived there for a long time all by himself. Then they cut up the property and put the road through – and houses, houses, houses, houses.
Housing Developments on Seminary Hill	
CPZ:	When did that build-up really start? When did development really hit this area?
Keating Carrier:	Let's see... how old were my kids? It must have been... it started in the early '50s, but just slightly. I think it was the '60s when it really took off.
CPZ:	Because down here, if you go up St. Stephens Road, that development is about 1973.
Keating Carrier:	Yes, that ...
CPZ:	This house is 1960-61.
Muckross	
Keating Carrier:	That was because that was the Moss property. She controlled hundreds of acres back here.
CPZ:	That's an old Alexandria family, I take it?
Keating Carrier:	I don't think so.
JZ	They had a house in this area?
Keating Carrier:	They had the big white house that's still around.
JZ	On Harris Place?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, Muckross. This was Muckross property. It used to have two brick gates, with a wrought iron gate that really closed. It was all fenced-in property. And Dr. Moss ran a sort of institution for nervous breakdowns and alcoholics. It was lovely – they had a sunken rose garden
CPZ:	This institution was here on that property?
Keating Carrier:	Right down the end of St. Stephens Road, which was the driveway. But they had a maze, a boxwood. They had an enormous grape arbor that you could drive a car in four directions. It was just phenomenal. Some of the people were not very happy, and they'd run away, and my sister and I would help them escape. One man, we helped him out of his straight jacket.
JZ:	These were people that perhaps were committed by their families?
Keating Carrier:	I think so. We were always calling taxi cabs. We should have just turned them back in but they were so sad, and so imploring.
CPZ:	So they wanted your help to get to...to escape if that's the right term. Do you happen to recall when that would have closed down?
Keating Carrier:	When did they build St. Stephen's?

CPZ:	1944, or around then.
Keating Carrier:	Okay. So it probably closed at the beginning of World War II because they couldn't get help. Because they had a full farm. They had chickens and pigs and cows – it was a self-sufficient area.
JZ:	Are there vestiges of the family, do you know, in the area? The Moss family?
Keating Carrier:	There's a ... The wife was Katherine Moss. And she had a sister who lived over in Colonial Park, and I think she was a Moss. But I think she was maybe a Moss by marriage, but I'm not sure. Because when Katherine died I took care of the house for them for a while till they decided what to do with it. And this other Moss person would come up and check on me. So, it worked out fine. I would move the car around and turn the lights on and off.
JZ:	So in due course they sold the house and all the property related ...
Keating Carrier:	No, no, no – it was donated or given by Will to Laura Fedder. She's the granddaughter of Katherine Moss.
JZ:	And she's still here?
Keating Carrier:	Yes, in fact, her mother was raised in the big house before it was an institution, or during, I don't know. She lives where, in Kentucky? - I don't know - but she comes up and visits her daughter occasionally.
Seminary Hill Post Office	
CPZ:	Speaking of structures around here, that old Post Office – that little Seminary Hill Post Office
Keating Carrier:	Oh, that's pre-Civil War.
CPZ:	Oh really?
Keating Carrier:	And it used to be in the Seminary grounds. It was a privately-used Post Office for the black families on Quaker Lane and the Seminary itself, and I think three other families, and we were one of the families.
CPZ:	You say it was on the grounds. You mean it was moved or the boundaries were moved?
Keating Carrier:	It was ...no. no, no... they moved the building twice.
CPZ:	It was physically moved?
Keating Carrier:	Physically, yes. They put it up on blocks and (one of those airborne things) and moved it. The whole campus of the Seminary has changed. It used to be... oh, probably where, what? Where's the big dining hall? I think it's where that building is. It's sort of between dorms. There used to be a dorm there called St. George's and that was a pre-Civil War building. And one of the students had painted a zebra skin on the wall. The bus used to also come in

	through the Seminary and so you'd get off that and walk up to the Post Office and then home.
JZ:	Did you pick you mail up from the Post Office? There was no home delivery?
Keating Carrier:	There was no home delivery.
JZ:	Were there other deliveries?
Keating Carrier:	There was a rural free delivery when this was Fairfax, but once it became Alexandria they had a difficult time deciding whether they were going to use mail boxes up here or what. We'd had a box at the Post Office for so long, we sort of kept it --which is a pain in the neck sometimes, but a blessing on the other hand. If I'm not here, they just save the mail. I don't have to get it stopped.
JZ:	Oh, you still use that?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, yes.
JZ:	Oh, good heavens.
Keating Carrier:	And if I don't pick my mail up every day it doesn't get picked up.
CPZ:	I recall you telling me once that you were a Postmistress occasionally.
Keating Carrier:	Well, it was such an important Post Office that they'd let any fourteen, fifteen year old child run it. [Laughter] I just sorted mail for about five families and sent mail on for the people who had gone off for the summer. It was a big job – I sold stamps and money orders. And insured something occasionally.
CPZ:	So you were filling in for the ...?
Keating Carrier:	Postmistress. Her name was Blanche Hall. She came down from below Chincoteague. Below Assateague. And she drove home for the summer. Which was four to six weeks, depending on how she felt or how her money was. I got a big twenty dollar bill for a month's work.
CPZ:	This would have been around the early 1940s?
Keating Carrier:	Yes.
Animals	
CPZ:	On your property...and of course we abut your property on our back there. So we both know that there's wild life back there – raccoons, squirrels and all – but ...
Keating Carrier:	Fox.
CPZ:	Fox?
Keating Carrier:	Fox. We used to have a deer, but I don't know where she went. She may have been killed.
CPZ:	Recently?

Keating Carrier:	Uh huh. She came up last summer, and was eating grass off that green strip outside the house.
CPZ:	Didn't see that. You had mentioned at one point having a skunk too, in your book.
Keating Carrier:	Oh, Mephitus. Oh, they're horrible pets because they're nocturnal. He slept all day long and rummaged through all the trash cans and opened all the drawers and tore up the socks, mismatched the shoes, oh, he was just awful.
CPZ:	As I recall Mephitus is Latin for 'bad smell'.
Keating Carrier:	Yes.
CPZ:	You've lived in that area, in that house there, for quite a long time. I was wondering whether you'd noticed any changes in the composition of the wild life.
Keating Carrier:	It's been eradicated one by one on the road. I do something that's definitely illegal; I feed the raccoons. Because I got tired of scooping them off the road. And the only way I could scoop them off the road was to shovel them onto a snow shovel and haul them in the backyard and bury them. But I haven't buried any since I started feeding them.
CPZ:	So we get raccoons and squirrels and ... Were there any wild animals that were there when you moved in that aren't around now – any kind?
Keating Carrier:	Deer and fox.
CPZ:	I've seen a fox once in a great while.
Keating Carrier:	We had a pair there for a while and one was run over about six months ago. And I haven't seen the other one since but I've heard it. It's a funny little yippy, high yippy voice.
CPZ:	One thing I think it's worth noting about animals too and I think we need to get this in the interview – when we first moved here, which was close to twenty years ago we could see the barn on your property – a small structure – and there was a pony living there which the children thought was just wonderful. That was Mary wasn't it?
Keating Carrier:	M-A-R-E little initial e. Since she was a girl. M-A-R-E e.
CPZ:	But pronounced Mary.
JZ:	I remember taking my daughter's Girl Scout troop to your house and you showed them how to groom ...
Keating Carrier:	Oh, for the Girl Scout badge?
JZ:	For the Girl Scout badge, yes. We used this lovely... I think it was a rocking horse, a model rocking horse.
Keating Carrier:	A merry-go-round horse.
JZ:	The children loved going over there.

CPZ:	You mentioned that you had horses when you first moved in. Can you just talk a little about that? If anybody's interested in that book – <i>The Pig in the Parlor</i> – has a lot about Keating's horses but I think it would be worth adding something here to the interview.
Keating Carrier:	My sister and I have had a very fortunate youth. We got what we wanted. And we wanted a pony. So one Christmas my mother and father bought a pony. And we'd gone to bed. They rang the bell, and we came galloping down the steps. This was the stone house on Russell Road. It had a big center hall and we had a big Christmas tree. And we came down the steps and we could see horse legs behind the tree.
JZ:	In the house?
Keating Carrier:	In the house. So we had our Christmas present under the tree, alongside the tree.
JZ:	Every young girl's dream.
Keating Carrier:	Oh, absolutely. And it turned out to be an absolute rotten pony. It was emaciated, so they thought it was old and gentle. But it was just an underfed racehorse that was young. And he was too much for me. I couldn't even get on him. He didn't like me. He'd bite me in the fanny and I tried to mount him. No matter how hard I pulled on the reins. [Inaudible] Didn't do a bit of good. [Inaudible]
JZ:	Your sister could ride him?
Keating Carrier:	Yes, my sister and he had a relationship. She named her first daughter after her first horse.
CPZ:	And that name was?
Keating Carrier:	Robin. And her second daughter she named after her first car which was a Devon Austin. So she has Devon and Robin to remind her of her younger days.
CPZ:	Now you also had a barn...?
Keating Carrier:	Well, there used to be three structures back there. There was one that was quite large because my father had an Irish hunter that had a foal and she needed a bigger stall than everybody else so she had a big stall. And there was a smaller stall where I kept my pony and then my sister had a pony. And then she came back and lived and brought her daughters and at that time she decided to have a riding school. We had seventeen horses and ponies back there.
CPZ:	Seventeen?
Keating Carrier:	Horse and ponies. She was a fully licensed City of Alexandria riding school. So you can tell the area around here has changed, because there used to be plenty of places to ride horses.
CPZ:	So you'd ride off the property and down some of the roads.

Keating Carrier:	Yes. In fact, we used to ride across the back of your property. Nothing had been built there and there were some little paths. The animals used it and we used it. And then all the area round the colleges up on Braddock Road, all that was all dirt roads. In Fairlington from, I guess, Quaker Lane to Shirley Highway. was a big flat field and they always kept it mowed because it was the emergency landing field for the National Airport, which at that time was where the Pentagon is now. We also had a big zeppelin, blimp, parked there and used to sell rides on it.
CPZ:	I'm going to stop here quickly so I can change the tape.
World War II Anti-Aircraft Battery	
CPZ:	I noted one thing in your book. Somebody had written about - during World War II - an anti-aircraft battery in the area. Where was that?
Keating Carrier:	Oh – where the church is in the Seminary grounds. It was there.
CPZ:	There was an anti-aircraft battery there?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. Well, it wasn't guns and things but it's where the wardens used to do the airplane spotting. And they flew a Japanese plane clear over the Seminary and none of us recognized it.
CPZ:	It was a captured Japanese plane, presumably?
Keating Carrier:	[Inaudible] The battery was down where the road forks – Braddock Road and King Street. There was a long strip of land and that belonged to...what's that think tank in Washington?
CPZ:	The Brookings Institution?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. Brookings. The Brookings used to have a house off of Braddock Road – a great big estate up a long driveway and part of their land was the strip where the big guns were. It was actually a big flashlight thing.
CPZ:	A searchlight?
Keating Carrier:	Yes. All the dogs kept going missing. Everybody's dog would disappear. Because they had lots of meat to eat and their garbage was full and all the dogs went down there because nobody had meat. All the meat was rationed so the dogs lived down there and they loved it. The dogs and the men.
Local Stores	
CPZ:	What stores did you go to? What was here commercially? What stores did you frequent?
Keating Carrier:	Let's see. There were no stores. You had to go into Alexandria. I guess the closest store was the delicatessen.
JZ:	When you say Alexandria. This is the area that's now Old Town?
Keating Carrier:	If you went down Duke Street – Soltano's. Soltano's? Yes. It was a wonderful grocery store – there was a delicatessen. Actually,

	where King Street and Quaker Lane and Braddock Road – on I guess the north side, east side? – where the Japanese florist – you know – where they sell Christmas trees.
JZ:	Oh yes, the Apple House.
Keating Carrier:	Yes, the Apple House. There's a brick building there.
JZ:	That's Radio Shack, etc., the building next to it.
Keating Carrier:	Well, that used to be a grocery store. But then it became a real grungy, grungy grocery store. And then everybody around here got together and they started a sort of commune grocery store. But actually my mother used to just pick up the telephone and call the Del Ray grocery store that's no longer there – it used to be on Del Ray Avenue - and she'd call in the order – cigarettes, milk, eggs, fresh chickens they got. She'd say she'd want a three pound chicken or a six pound chicken or one pound chicken and they'd go out in their back yard and kill it and send it up fresh.
JZ:	Would it be plucked?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, yes. It had its head on.
JZ:	Had its head on?
Keating Carrier:	Had its head on. And de-gutted. No feathers. Not even pin feathers. Really good. Delicious. All those good bugs and grass and weeds and things.
Transportation	
CPZ:	How would you get into Alexandria if you were going where Old Town is now?
Keating Carrier:	Same way you get down there now. You'd either go Janneys Lane or Braddock Road or Duke Street.
CPZ:	Would you go by car? Or by public transportation?
Keating Carrier:	By chauffeur-driven car.
CPZ:	Okay! Do it in style. How about Washington, DC. If you went into Washington?
Keating Carrier:	Same way. The family car. Or you could also take the bus because the bus used to make up lost time or if they were too fast, they'd make the time difference up at the Seminary. So sometimes the bus was sitting there for a long time. And the driver would get out and have a cigarette. And then we'd get on and go down into Alexandria and that bus would take you right over to 12 th and Pennsylvania Avenue. I think for a dime.
JZ:	The Seminary was the end of the route.
Keating Carrier:	[Nods.]
St. Agnes School	

CPZ:	Lastly, we did touch on this originally, or to some extent earlier - going to school. But if you could just say something about going - you went to St. Agnes School. Did you graduate from there? You went through secondary school?
Keating Carrier:	Third grade through twelfth.
CPZ:	And at that time it was an all-girls school?
Keating Carrier:	Yes.
CPZ:	Did you walk? Or how did you get there? It's - what - about two miles?
Keating Carrier:	When we lived in the Russell Road house we always walked, because it was just across the gulley. But up here, particularly in the winter, the fathers had a car pool going into Washington and they'd wedge some of us in and go sort of three quarters of the way to school and then dump us. And then sometimes we rode bicycles, which was just terrible because no matter which way you went there was a steep, steep hill. Your book-bag would open and books would fly out and that kind of a thing. And we rode the ponies over occasionally. Tie them up on the hockey field.
CPZ:	Did you have ...how would you characterize your time there? Did you enjoy it? Or...
Keating Carrier:	Oh yes, the classes were small. The teachers were just wonderful. The teachers were all like aunts. I mean they were just friendly, helpful, nice. When we got up to high school it got a little more strict. A little less maternal. A little more teacherish.
JZ:	Are you still in contact with any of your friends from your school days?
Keating Carrier:	Oh yes, oh yes. I boarded over there off and on, depending on my behavior. And ...
JZ:	This was a reward or a punishment?
Keating Carrier:	Both. [Laughs] Let's see. I graduated in an enormous class. It was the biggest class they'd had for a long time. We had eleven.
CPZ:	That was what year?
Keating Carrier:	[19]44. And let's see. Out of that we've lost...one died. In fact she was a professor's daughter. For some reason, and I don't know why. She was so brilliant, she taught over at Visitation in Washington. She taught science - chemistry - she was a brilliant person. But she became an alcoholic. And she died of cirrhosis of the liver on the New Jersey Turnpike with her dog in the car. The poor dog almost died because it was hot and it didn't have any water and it kept telling people to open the windows and nobody paid attention until it was almost too late. But I guess the rest of us are hanging in there. We had a class reunion last year. Five of us turned up. But the others either didn't want to or couldn't. We had one classmate who's going into Alzheimer's. She came and that

	was nice. She stayed with me, and if I had that kind of Alzheimer's I wouldn't mind having it.
JZ:	She was happy?
Keating Carrier:	She was very happy and willing to help. Really very nice, but she was always that way.
CPZ:	What's your most vivid school memory?
Keating Carrier:	Getting into trouble with the teachers in the boarding school for Vaseline-ing – putting Vaseline on - the toilet seat.
CPZ:	And you did that because...?
Keating Carrier:	Oh, I'm sure that I was encouraged to do it. One of my roommates ... And then we had – what's that reflecting paint they use? I got a tube of reflecting paint. I painted everybody's fingers. Boy, I got in trouble for that. I trimmed the outline of the toilet seat. [Laughs]
JZ:	Was your sister at school with you?
Keating Carrier:	No, she graduated in [19]39. And she always treated me like a real underling. She had so little to do with me except to step on me.
Seminary Hill Neighborhood	
CPZ:	Well, that's been a very good session I think. Now, is there anything else that we've not touched on that you'd like to talk about? About the neighborhood? Seminary Hill?
Keating Carrier:	There were very few houses up here up through World War II and there were some big estate houses where the hospital is now. That was a lovely, big old house. It had a wonderful big porch. And there were three daughters there and they had some wild parties. And we weren't invited to them, so we caused a little bit of a problem. We heard that a grandmother, or great-grandmother, that lived there was a real ogre. And she became paralyzed and she lived in a bedroom and she'd thump her stick on the floor and ring the bell constantly for attention. That was lovely. That was good grounds for ruining a party. So there were about five of us and we felt deprived because we didn't get invited to the party and so we snuck up near the house and rang bells and bumped sticks and then ran away laughing. But after a while they got fed up with our nonsense. They started chasing us. And we were on foot. We finally got caught, but we might have got away really. And then we started doing it by escaping in a car.
CPZ:	You were old enough to drive then?
Keating Carrier:	Oh yes. This was when we were in our late teens. And we'd drive the car up about the light, get as close to the house as we could to thump sticks, ring bells. They caught on that we came by car so they hid a car so when we went out they were right on our tail so we got arrested on Route 50 in Arlington for speeding. So they

	were chasing us like mad and we got ahead of them and we got hauled over by the police and those kids, really, they were so nice. They turned around and came back and took half the blame. The police were so impressed they laughed and we all had a good laugh and we all went our own way. Nobody got fined for trying to kill each other.
JZ:	Going further along Seminary Road that way there is now a middle school on the left and a shopping center on the right and then a bridge over the highway, [Route] 395.
Keating Carrier:	Nothing, not even the highway, not even the bridge. And then going down to Bailey's Crossroads, that was dairy farm land. And then it became an airport.
CPZ:	Where Skyline Towers is now – that was an airport. Because Matthew [Ziegler's elder son] sent us an article about that.
JZ:	Yes, and I seem to remember Bailey's Crossroads was the wintering ground for Barnum and Bailey Circus.
Keating Carrier:	Just Bailey's. And he joined Ringling Brothers and it became Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey. That was his winter quarters for just elephants.
JZ:	Do you remember that, or was that before your time?
Keating Carrier:	No, that was before the 1900s.
CPZ:	Did you generally enjoy living here as a youngster in the "old days" and I put that in quotes.
Keating Carrier:	Oh, it was wonderful, because there was no crime. And so, four, six, eight of us would get on the bus with our roller skates, get off at the 14 th Street bridge, roller skate around Haine's Point, go down where the Navy Yard used to be and the beginning of Memorial Bridge and catch the last bus to Virginia and that let us off at Bailey's Crossroads and we'd walk back from Bailey's Crossroads, after having roller skated all around Washington, D.C. Because there were no sidewalks out here, no place to roller skate.
CPZ:	So originally, when you first moved in, there weren't even any sidewalks?
Keating Carrier:	Oh never, never, never, never. And they had little horse paths along the road. Instead of sidewalks they had horse paths – horse-made paths.
Mural in the House	
JZ	I just have question about the house. I remember, I believe it's in the dining room, there's a lovely mural.
Keating Carrier	Mm. My father did it. There's one part that has the Lee House in Arlington Cemetery, which is interesting because he put it up and painted it in, what, 1938. It's egg tempera on wood and plaster.
JZ	So it can't be removed?

Keating Carrier	No. But it's where my parents are buried. He didn't know he was going to be buried there but he's buried the fourth row down from the Lee House.
CPZ:	So he's buried in Arlington Cemetery?
Keating Carrier	And then another view is of Mount Vernon and then another view is the one that was never really finished. It's Memorial Bridge and where they filled in for National Airport because National Airport's all on fill.
JZ	What was there? It was a valley? It was a marsh?
Keating Carrier	No, just the river was a little wider. Well, actually up and down the Potomac on that side was owned by the Department of Agriculture and they used to grow rice and all sorts of things they were testing. It was a test area for the Department of Agriculture. It was terrible when they started doing it. And they always had big wide trails, because at that time Fort Myer was a cavalry post and they would ride out with four horses abreast, so the trails were four horses abreast. And they went down to Mount Vernon, so we had a wonderful trail rides.
JZ	But your parents were both artists?
Keating Carrier	Yes.
JZ	And I know you have done some drawing, because we saw pictures in the book.
Sister's Adventure	
Keating Carrier	The book stuff. My sister was a professional artist. She worked with Disney, then she found out that Disney didn't like women. And so she and a friend that had gone out to California to work with Disney – in fact, they were invited to go out – they sort of won contests – they went out and they hated it. They thought they were going to be cartoonists or animators or something and, no, they were just fillers. All women did nothing but fill a cell with a light underneath it. After the first day she felt cross-eyed. They lasted long enough to get their bus fare home and came home by Greyhound bus. My sister swears they were chased by wolves. They were coming through West Virginia, the hills were bad, the driver said, "All right, everybody out. I'm going to try to get to the top of the hill. You all walk it. If I make it. Otherwise we'll try to figure out what to do to pick you up. Or you can come down the hill, whatever." So the bus went up the hill and, I gather slithered all around and then, as the people from the bus were walking up some wolves were following them, sneaking. This is where my sister says she almost got eaten by a wolf, because they were the last two in the group, walking up the side of the mountain.
JZ	They weren't?

Keating Carrier	No.
Marriage	
JZ	I am just interested in the family. When you married, you and your husband remained in the house. No?
Keating carrier	No, I was married in France. I was originally supposed to be married in the Seminary. And then my husband got transferred to the <i>U.S.S. Columbus</i> .
CPZ:	Now your husband was in the Navy, correct?
Keating Carrier	Yes. And then he was on the <i>Columbus</i> , which was the admiral's flagship.
CPZ:	A heavy cruiser, I think.
Keating Carrier	A wonderful ship. Wonderful people. And then they were being stationed at a port because it was the beginning of the Korean War. And they were trying to get ships lined up to go to Korea if necessary. And so I was going to be married in Plymouth, England, and I didn't hear anything and I didn't hear anything and my mother would have gone with me but she wouldn't go any place where you had to fly. She was the first woman to fly over Norfolk and that was her first and last airplane ride, which is such a shame because she loved to travel, but she'd rather travel on a freighter or anything than fly across the pond. So then my husband sailed out of Plymouth under secret lighting or something and then I didn't hear from him for about two months and then – aha – “If you hurry we can get married. But you have to come to France.” But trying to get a ticket in 1950 to go to the Cote d'Azur was pretty ridiculous. On TWA you went – I don't know - you had to change planes three or four times and Pan Am would fly you through but they didn't have any more tickets. I finally ended up flying something into Paris and spending the night in Boris Shishkin's house, and then flying down to Nice. And the man that married us said the last American he married was Rita Hayworth and the Ali Khan.
JZ	So you had no family present?
Keating Carrier	I thought if I waited too long I'd be a single woman for the rest of my life. Oh, I thought the idea of living in France, that was really delightful.
JZ	So you stayed in France?
Keating Carrier	Oh yes, I lived there for over a year. There were four or five of us young marrieds, married lieutenant jgs. And we didn't have any money, but we all got together and we rented a villa. A couple of wonderful villas. And when they sailed from Boston on the ship they allowed so many cars to go aboard and fortunately the person who had the last slot didn't want to take his car over, so my

	<p>husband got to take his car over. So I had a car. The five of us drove all over Europe and had one splendid time. And then when the ship would come in we'd go down and meet it for a weekend or whenever they'd come into Naples or Marseilles we'd go too. It was just wonderful. I mean - free, white and 21. And we tried to go to Spain and they would not give us visas. We couldn't figure out why. That was their loss. But we were all through Italy and Switzerland and parts of Germany. We did France quite thoroughly and up and down [inaudible]. It was terrific. All of our money went into gas. We didn't have much money for eating.</p>
Going to Church	
CPZ:	One question I wanted to ask and I forgot. Where did you go to church?
Keating Carrier	I was a real ardent church person at that time. Going to the Seminary and I had a group of kids called the Girls Friendly.
CPZ:	Girls Friendly?
Keating Carrier	Girls Friendly. It was a group that was organized in Ireland for the working girl who never had a chance to do anything except work and go back to their dormitories. It was a Christian group that taught the girls crafts, and most of it was art. So I had my little Girls Friendly group and we did carving and things like that. That was really fun. I was very active, doing Sunday School, singing in the choir and keeping my mouth moving but no singing. They didn't want frogs. But they wanted faces to get everybody singing, sang in the choir all summer long and the winter and the fall the Episcopal High School boys, because we used to be the majority of the people in the church.
JZ	So your church was actually the Seminary chapel?
Keating Carrier	Yes. I was baptized over there and I was confirmed over there.
CPZ:	OK. It's all been very good. Thank you very much Keating. [End]